

# **BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 22, 2011**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair) and Diana Campbell**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: Marjorie McBride, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade and Pauline Silva**

**Public: Kristen Quinn and Keith Maloney**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to approve the minutes to the February 9 and February 14, 2011 meetings; Bill O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.**

### **Budget Development**

**Pauline presented a draft request. Continuation of services (with no salary increases, estimated increases in benefits and out of district**

tuitions, retirement contributions and contracted services) will require \$1,905,816 in additional funding, or 3.64% more. The estimate of state and miscellaneous revenues increases the shortfall to \$2.9M.

Melinda provided a list of talking points which include key points of her opposition to the funding formula, the impact of the funding formula on Bristol Warren, and a list of enacted efficiencies (see attached).

#### **Comments/ Suggestions:**

The Administrator salary freeze of 2010-11 was voluntary and Bill thought it should be noted as such.

The efficiencies through partnerships entry will be expanded upon. It should be made clear that enacted efficiencies will continue to be vigorously pursued.

Break down the 19.1% reduction in FTE into teaching, support and admin staff.

Show the decrease in staffing numbers over the past 5 years.

Include the increase in student enrollment over the past few years.

Administration has been instructed to be revenue neutral.

Ask the local papers or the “Patch” to publish the graphs and pie charts of how funds are dispersed. CLAUDIA – FIX THIS.

Graphic demonstration of numbers is very effective—graphically show the numbers for the past five years of the student population, teacher population, administration and support staff population.

We have a proven track record and should request what we need to

**continue services.**

**The group discussed whether some cuts should be built into the request. Bill felt it would provide solid evidence of attempts to find savings; Kristen felt this approach might fracture the support from the public. Diana feels that servicing more students with the same amount of staff is evidence.**

**Diana has heard comments such as “I hope the schools are going to show cuts.” Melinda responded we do not show at this point in time what cuts would look like; cuts are determined after the final budget figure is realized.**

**Keith Maloney sensed that everyone knows the funding formula has greatly affected the District; the District must be very transparent in defending our position. Some members of the public believe \$2M has been reserved for upgrading the athletic fields. Bill O’Dell explained the capital projects fund and how two years ago the District started a plan to fix the fields. The study has been completed and permitting obtained, which is valid for three years; the District now does not have the money to go further.**

**It would not behoove the District to put the \$2-\$300,000 toward the shortfall because it is a one-time revenue stream and that money is saving us money in energy efficiencies and some of that money is refunded in housing aid at a rate up to 64%. In order to balance this year’s budget we did**

**not reload anything this fiscal year. We also retain a 2% fund balance for emergency repairs and a 2% fund balance for cash flow.**

**MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to accept the budget as presented and forward the recommendation to the full Committee for acceptance. Bill O'Dell seconded.**

**Keith questioned the \$477,383 salary increase; Pauline explained that amount covers the mandated increases (steps, degree lanes, longevity) only. Keith commented the current contract is favorable to the teachers and not the District and has nothing about standards of performance; we have a serious shortfall and they have to recognize the circumstances we are in and be part of the solution.**

**Marj suggested we indicate the percentage of decrease in revenue from the state.**

**MOTION: Diana motioned to amend the budget request to include the percentage of reduction of revenues from the state. Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The motion to approve as amended passed by a vote of 2 to 0.**

**Diana brought up a comment that the District has been living high on the hog with the regionalization bonus; in actuality, it is the towns that have benefited by not having to raise taxes. Kristen believes this**

**point should be made by a parent because administration should not be adversarial.**

**Possible dates for Joint Finance are being worked out. Diana requested two meetings from David Barboza because one gives the perception of a predetermined outcome. Melinda would like to have a small meeting between the Budget Subcommittee and Joint Finance Committee in regard to the per pupil expenditures.**

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 7:55 PM Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn. Bill O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**